

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for performing a service on a home network, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) connecting a first home device to the home network;
 - (b) connecting a second home device to the home network;
 - (c) providing a database including a plurality of application interface description data objects, each application interface description data object including information in a structured format for commanding and controlling of a home device by one or more other home devices connected to the network;
 - (d) the second home device accessing a first application interface description object for the first home device in the database;
 - (e) the first home device accessing a second application interface description object for the second home device in the database;
 - (f) sending control and command data from the first home device to the second home device utilizing said application interface description object for the second home device over the network; and
 - (g) sending control and command data from the second home device to the first home device utilizing said application interface description object for the first home device over the network;
- whereby the first and second home devices perform said service.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the structured format includes XML format.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) includes connecting a database device to the network, wherein the database device stores said database.

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4. The method of claim 3 wherein:
(i) the first home device stores the first application interface data therein;
(ii) the second home device stores the second application interface data therein; and
(iii) step (c) includes an initial step of forming said database by steps including querying the first and second home devices to transfer said application interface data for the first and second home devices to the database device.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) includes providing the first application interface description object for the first home device from the database to the second home device over the network.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein step (e) includes providing the second application interface description object for the second home device from the data base to the first home device over the network.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising connecting three or more home devices to the network, wherein at least one home device accesses the database to query the application interface description objects of a plurality of home devices for sending command and control data to the plurality of home devices over the network.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein each application interface description object includes data in a structured format.

sub a² 9. A network system for providing a service, comprising:
(a) a physical layer, wherein the physical layer provides a communication medium than can be used by devices to communicate with each other;

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5 (b) first home device;
(c) a second home device;
(d) a database including a plurality of application interface
description data objects, each application interface description data object including
information in a structured format for commanding and controlling of a home device
10 by one or more other devices connected to the network; wherein:

the second home device includes application control means for
accessing a first application interface description object for the first home device in
the database and sending control and command data from the second home device
to the first home device utilizing said first application interface description object; and

15 the first home device includes application control means for accessing
a second application interface description object for the second home device in the
database and sending control and command data from the first home device to the
second home device utilizing said second application interface description object;
whereby the first and second home devices perform said service.

10. The network system of claim 9 wherein the structured format includes
XML format.

sub 11. The network system of claim 9 further comprising a data base device
storing said database.

sub 12. The network system of claim 11 wherein:
(i) the first home device stores first application interface description
object therein;
(ii) the second home device stores second application interface
5 description object therein; and
(iii) said database base device forms said date base by querying
the first and second home devices to transfer said first and second application
interface description objects, respectively, to the database device.

sub b67 13. The network system of claim 9 wherein the control application means of the second home device obtains the first application interface description object for the first home device from the database.

14. The network system of claim 9 wherein the control application means of the first home device obtains the second application interface description object for the second home device from the data base.

15. The network system of claim 9 further comprising three or more home devices, wherein at least one home device accesses the database to query the application interface description objects of a plurality of home devices for sending command and control data to the plurality of home devices over the network.

16. The network system of claim 9 wherein each application interface description object includes data in a structured format.

sub 47 17. The network system of claim 9 wherein the structured format includes XML format.

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